Thursday, November 20, 2008

Library RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 24

Subject: Approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply to the Preserve America program to designate Austin as a Preserve America Community.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Sue Soy, Grants & Records Manager / 974-7388; Dana McBee, Financial

Manager / 974-7433.

Preserve America is a White House initiative developed in cooperation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the U.S. Department of Commerce. Its purpose is to encourage and support community efforts to preserve and enjoy cultural and natural heritage. It recognizes and designates communities, including cities, that protect and celebrate their heritage, use historic assets for economic development and community revitalization, and encourage people to experience and appreciate local historic resources through education and heritage tourism programs. More than sixty-two Texas cities have been designated, including San Antonio and Dallas, as well as our neighboring cities of New Braunfels and Bastrop.

Benefits of the designation include White House recognition, eligibility to apply for Preserve America matching grants, a certificate of recognition, a Preserve America road sign, authorization to use the Preserve America logo on signs, flags, banners, and promotional materials, listing in a Web-based Preserve America Community directory, inclusion in national and regional press releases, official notification of designation to state tourism offices and visitors bureaus, and enhanced community visibility and pride.